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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04263 161436Z  
ACTION DS-00

INFO LOG-00 ARA-01 ACQ-01 OASY-00 IMMC-01 TEDE-00 LAB-01  
ADS-00 MMP-00 ASDS-01 DSCC-00 DRL-09 /014W  
-----4EEDD3 161437Z /38

R 161434Z JUL 96  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2367  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 004263

DEPT FOR DS/OP/ARA, DS/ITA, AND ARA/EX

POSTS FOR RSO/PSO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: BUENOS AIRES EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE  
(EAC) MEETING

1. IN LIGHT OF THE UPCOMING SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
JULY 18, 1994 TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST THE ARGENTINE  
JEWISH MUTUAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING (AMIA), POST CONVENED A  
MEETING OF ITS EMERGENCY ACTION COMMITTEE. RECENT LOCAL  
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ARGENTINE INVESTIGATION OF THE AMIA  
BOMBING, TO INCLUDE THE ARRESTS OF NUMEROUS LOCAL POLICE

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 04263 161436Z  
OFFICERS, HAVE ALSO SERVED TO REFOCUS ATTENTION AND

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PUBLICITY ON THIS STILL UNSOLVED CASE.

2. EAC CHAIRPERSON, THE CHARGE, BEGAN BY DISCUSSING RECENT REPORTING ON TERRORIST ELEMENTS IN SOUTH AMERICA AND ARGENTINA. ADDITIONALLY, THE CHARGE REMINDED EAC MEMBERS OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS TIME PERIOD WHILE CAUTIONING ALL MEMBERS TO REMAIN VIGILANT. RSO OFFERED A CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF THE LOCAL THREAT ENVIRONMENT, POINTING OUT THE RELATIVE CONCERNS FOR THE USG AND US PRIVATE SECTOR COMMUNITY IN ARGENTINA. RSO FURTHER RELATED ARGENTINE LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS TO PREVENT OTHER LIKE ATTACKS FROM OCCURRING. BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, WITH RESPECT TO THE ARGENTINE JEWISH AND THE ISRAELI COMMUNITY HERE, SOME 1000-1500 POLICE PERSONNEL ARE ASSIGNED TO SECURITY FOR VARIOUS SITES AND PERSONNEL.

4. WITH RESPECT TO PERIMETER SECURITY FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY, POST CONTINUES TO UTILIZE ITS DELTA BARRICADES AT THE PRIMARY VEHICLE ENTRANCE. LOCAL GUARDS HAVE AGAIN BEEN BRIEFED ON ALL APPLICABLE SECURITY CONCERNS. RSO HAS INITIATED EFFORTS TO SECURE A PERMANENT ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE (AFP) PRESENCE AT THE U.S. EMBASSY. HERETOFORE, ONLY THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE (LOCATED IN VERY CLOSE PROXIMITY AND LINE OF SIGHT FROM THE EMBASSY) HAS HAD A DEDICATED AFP POST. IN EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES, POST HAS RECEIVED AUGMENTED COVERAGE FROM THE AFP FOR THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER A DEDICATED PRESENCE WOULD PROVIDE A MORE PERMANENT DETERRENCE.

5. FINALLY, SEVERAL EAC MEMBERS ADDED THEIR OBSERVATIONS  
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PAGE 03 BUENOS 04263 161436Z  
ON THE LOCAL ATMOSPHERICS. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON THE THREAT POSED BY THE KNOWN PRESENCE OF ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS IN ARGENTINA, THE FACT THAT ARGENTINA HAS A VERY SIZABLE JEWISH COMMUNITY, AND ITS PERCEPTION OF BEING SOFT ON ENFORCEMENT (I.E., LACK OF ANY FINAL RESOLUTION WITH THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE TWO TERRORIST ATTACKS HERE). THE EAC NOTED THAT MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT ARGENTINA PRESENTS A RIPE LOCATION FOR A THIRD TERRORIST ATTACK. THE CHARGE CLOSED THE MEETING WITH FINAL COUNSEL ON MAINTAINING AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SECURITY AWARENESS.

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WILL CONTINUE TO ADVISE AS NECESSARY.

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